

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, January 3. 1706.

of TRADE in General.

TRADER is a general Exchange of the Necessaries and Utensils of Life, from and between Person and Person, Place and Place.

The Principal Subjects of Trade are Included, in Provisions, House-Furniture, and Cloathing; and they are habded from Place to Place, by an Infinite and incessant Circulation; they are attended with a vast Variety of Handicrafts, to Furnish Tools to make Vessels to Convey, and Instruments to produce and preserve.

I would be Foreign to the Design of these Papers, to give an *Index* of the several Arts, into which Trade is thus subdivided. I shall go on farther upon the Ge-

nerals, and then come to Particulars of another sort.

Generally speaking, all the Innumerable of Trade, come under these two Heads; Natural Produce, and Manufacture. The different Climates and Soil in the World, have, by the Wisdom and Direction of *Nature Natureing*, which I Call GOD, produc'd such differing Species of things, all of them in their kind equally Necessary, or at least Useful and Desirable; as insensibly preserves the Dependance, of the most Remote Parts of the World upon one another; and at least makes them useful to each other, and Contributing to one anothers Convenience, Necessity, or Delight.

And

And here I might digress to good purpose, in setting out, how the most Pientiful Country, receives from the most Barren ; how every Nation has something to fetch from, and something to lend to one another ; every Nation something to spare, which another Country wants, and has something wanting, another Country can spare ; and this occasions Exchanging with those Countries, to the Advantage of both ; and that we call **TRADE**. This necessarily implies Convenience for Portage, and that we call Navigation ; and thus General Negoce began to be improv'd by Humane Industry, to Strange and Unaccountable Enlargements.

This Variety also, is not only Natural, but Artificial ; and as the Climates and Soil, have produc'd in every Country different Growths or Species of things ; so the differing Genius of the People of every Country, prompts them to different Improvements, and to different Customs. They Eat, Wear, and Dwell after differing Manners ; and as all People, Tenacious of their own way, seek what qualifies them best to pursue it ; they seek to Foreign Climates to furnish themselves, with what they cannot have so much to their purpose, or so suited to their occasions or Inclinations at Home ; and this is again Revolv'd into necessary Correspondence, they must send to those Countries some Equivalent, to satisfy the People for what they take from them ; and thus we are again brought home to **TRADE**.

To Examine this Variety a little, may not be Unpleasant, nor in its end Unprofitable to the Reader ; because it will tend to open our particular Scenes of Trade, of which in Course, I shall come to Treat more Particularly and Largely, than perhaps is expected.

The Variety, both of the Produce and Manufactures of the several Countries, are the Foundations of Trade, and I Entitle Providence to it ; not only as it is found in Nature, but as it is found in Customs and Consequences of things ; for **GOD** in whole Infinite foreknowledge, all the Accidents of Time are always present, who is

one Infinite Substantial Essential **NOW**, in which is no past or future, must be suppos'd to foreknow that Natural Causes consider'd, and to Natural Causes, he had in his Infinite Wisdom by Laws of Nature, submitted all the Variety of Consequences ; the Generations of the World, could not subsist in the Manner prescrib'd, without the Mutual Assistance, and Concurrence of one another. The bare Produce of the Earth, in many of our Neighbouring Countries, could by no means have Maintain'd the Numbers of People, which the Consequences of Trade have brought together to Answer for this Navigable Rivers, as well as a Navigable Sea, has made the Communication of Remote Parts Practicable ; and Floaty Bodies are adapted for Vessels, that the Light Bodies may bear the Heavy, and Goods that will not bear it, may be sent from the Inconvenience of Weather, and preserv'd fit for Use and Convenience.

The Rivers and Roads, are as the Veins and Arteries, that Convey Wealth, like the Blood, to all the Parts of the World ; and this Wealth is the Life of Kingdoms and Towns ; the Support of their People, and Test of their Power.

I wonder sometimes, at the Ignorance of those People and Nations, whose Gentry pretend to Despise Families rais'd by Trade ; Why should that, which is the Wealth of the World, the Prosperity and Health of Kingdoms and Towns, be accounted Dishonourable ?

If we Respect Trade, as it is understood by Merchandizing ; it is certainly the most Noble, most instructive, and Improving of any way of Life. The Artificers or Handicrafts-Men, are indeed Slaves ; the Gentlemen are the Plowmen of the Nation, but the Merchant is the Support, and Improver of Power, Learning, and Fortunes.

A True-Bred Merchant, is a Universal Scholar his Learning Exceeds the meer Scholar in Greek and Latin, as much as that does the Illiterate Person, that cannot Write or Read : He understands Land

Languages without Books, Geography without Maps; his Journals and Trading-Voyages delineate the World; his Foreign-Exchanges, Protests and Procurations, speak all Tongues; he sits in his Counting-House, and converses with all Nations, and keeps up the most exquisite and extensive part of human Society in a Universal Correspondence.

He is qualified for all sorts of Employment in the State, by a General Knowledge of things and Men; he receives and draws such vast Sums, that he Transacts more Value than a large Exchequer.

By the Number of these Cities, rise out of nothing, and decay again into Villages: If Trade abandons a Port; if the Merchants quit the place, it languishes of course, and dies like Man in a Consumption, insensibly; if these flock to a Town, House-trade crowds upon them; Seamen increase; People flock in, and the Village soon becomes a City.

In Nations and Empires 'tis the same; what infinite Crowds of People flock into *Holland*; Cities without Number, and Towns thick like the Houses in other Countries, that the whole Country seems to be one populous City; People in such Multitude, that all the Land in the Country can't find Butter and Cheese for them; much less maintain them.

All these attend upon Trade by Trade, they possess the World, and have greater Stocks of Goods in each Country's Growth, than the Countries from whence they have them can show.

Their Rivers are throng'd with Shipping like a Wood; their Naval Stores are inexhaustible; they can build a Navy, and fit it to Sea, sooner than any Nation in the World; and yet have neither the Timber or Plank, the Iron-Work or Cordage, the Pitch or the Tar, the Hemp or the Rosin, in any part of the Country.

All this is done by Trade; the Merchant makes a wet Bog become a populous State; enriches Beggars, enobles Mechanicks, raises not Families only, but Towns, Cities, Provinces and Kingdoms.

How then can that be dishonourable, that, it in its kind is the support of the World, and by and from which Nations and Kingdoms are made to differ from one another; are made to excel one another, and be too strong, because too rich for one another.

The Merchant by his Correspondence reconciles that infinite Variety, which, as I noted, has by the Infinite Wisdom of Providence, been scattred over the Face of the World.

If *England* has Wool, and *Spain* has Oil; *Spain* lends her Oil over to *England* to enable *England* to work that Wool into Cloth, Bays, Sayes, Perpets and Stuffs; and so they may be sent over to *Spain* for their Clothing.

Has *Spain* Wine, *England* has her Beer and fine Ale, which in those Countries where there they have Wine, is justly esteem'd before it: And again, we send for their Wines to drink here, our Prelates encling to seek those Liquors which we must fetch from abroad.

We Cloth all the Islands and Continent of *America*; and they in return, furnish us with Sugars and Tobaccos, things by Custom becoming as useful to us, as our Cloths is to them: Trade carries the very Soil away, and transposes the World in Parts; removing Mountains, and carrying them over the Sea into other Countries; what a Quantity of the *Terra Firma* has been carried from *New-Castle* in Coles; whose Ashes lie mix'd with the Soil in most parts of the World; what Cavities and Chasms in the Bowels of the Earth have we made for our Tin, Lead and Iron, in the respective Countries of *Cornwal*, *Darby* and *Staffex*.

These we carry abroad, and with them we purchase and bring back the Wonds of *Norway*; the Silks of *Italy* and *Turky*; the Wines and Brandies of *France*, the Wines, Oil, and Fruit of *Spain*; the Druggs of *Persia*; the Spices of *India*; the Sugars of *America*; the Toys and Gaiety of *China* and *Japan*.

An infinite Variety might here be run through; every Country Communicates to its other corresponding Country what they want;